Loss to FCI due to substandard rice procurement

1976. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FCI procured rice milled by private rice millers containing higher percentage of broken, discoloured, damaged dehusked grain and foreign matter as a result of which rice could not be issued to PDS;

(b) if so, whether the matter was inquired into to find out the reasons for accepting beyond rejection level rice stocks from the private rice millers in deviation of relaxed specifications fixed by Government; and

(c) how much loss has been caused to the corporation on account of the above and what action was taken against the officials responsible for accepting poor quality rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. FCI procures rice as **per** the specifications formulated by Government of India. However, stray incidences of procurement of Beyond Rejection Level (BRL) rice are detected sometimes during inspection of various authorities on which immediate remedial action is taken. During Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06 Government has relaxed the specifications for procurement of rice in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh regions only, in respect of damaged/slightly damaged grain. As on 3.3.2006, a quantity of 144 lakh MT of rice has been procured during the KMS 2005-06, out of which 8103 MT of rice (including 3500 MT in Punjab, 4315 MT in Haryana and 288 MTs in Uttar Pradesh) has been detected as BRL during the inspection of supervisory officers. The procurement of BRL stock as compared to total procurement works out to 0.056%.

(c) The stocks detected BRL is being replaced by the millers at their risk and cost. As such, there is no loss caused to the Corporation. Disciplinary action has been initiated against the delinquents for acceptance of rice stocks found BRL.